

## Message Text

SECRET

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16

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 070902Z MAY 76 ZFF-4

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 11378

NODIS

DEPT PLS PASS JIDDA IMMEDIATE

FOR AMBASSADOR PORTER FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, US

SUBJECT: CRITICISM OF U.S. POLICY IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF: JIDDA 3262 (TOSEC 110792)

1. IN CONNECTION WITH AKINS' TESTIMONY, YOU SHOULD  
SEEK OUT HIGHEST-RANKING APPROPRIATE SAUDI OFFICIAL  
AND MAKE POINTS BELOW:

2. THE INFERENCES OF AKINS' TESTIMONY ARE WITHOUT  
FOUNDATION. AKINS WAS NOT AWARE OF ALL ACTIONS  
TAKEN IN WASHINGTON OR OF ALL FACTORS CONSIDERED  
IN WASHINGTON. HIS STATEMENT, THEREFORE, WAS  
GROSSLY MISLEADING. SPECIFICALLY:

A. ON OIL PRICES, WE ALWAYS TOOK WITH THE IRANIAN  
GOVERNMENT THE SAME POSITION WE TOOK WITH THE  
SAUDI GOVERNMENT--WE STRONGLY OPPOSED OIL PRICE  
INCREASES AND VIGOROUSLY URGED THEIR REDUCTION  
ON REPEATED OCCASIONS IN IRAN.

B. ON THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING AID TO SOMALIA, WE  
INFORMED THE SAUDIS OF OUR READINESS TO RESUME  
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ECONOMIC AID. ON THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING U.S.

MILITARY MATERIEL, SUPPLANTING THE  
SOVIET ROLE AS PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER WOULD NOT ONLY  
HAVE REQUIRED MANY TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS  
BUT WOULD ALSO HAVE REQUIRED US TO PROVIDE  
MATCHING EQUIPMENT TO ETHIOPIA AND SPECIAL  
CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. FOR US TO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO  
ENGAGE IN THAT KIND OF ARMS SHIPMENT WITH SAUDI  
ARABIA AT A TIME WHEN CONGRESS, AS THE SAUDIS  
WELL KNOW, IS INCREASINGLY OPPOSED TO U.S.  
MILITARY SHIPMENTS OF ALL KINDS WOULD HAVE RISKED  
ENDING ALL MILITARY RELATIONSHIP TO SAUDI ARABIA.  
AKINS' REMARKS DO NOT REFLECT UNDERSTANDING OF  
COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEM IN HORN OF AFRICA.

3. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN  
ON MAY 5 DEALT WITH QUESTIONS ALONG LINES OF ABOVE  
MINUS REFERENCES TO SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IN HORN OF  
AFRICA.  
KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: OFF-LINE PROTECT RELAY.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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